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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00
HA-02 IO-06 VO-01 CA-01 /044 W
----------018492 031410Z /47
R 021559Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7441
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1647

LIMDIS

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: SITUATION OF ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK

REF: (A) MOSCOW 1061, (B) MOSCOW 365

1. ALEKSANDR PODRABINEK INFORMED EMBOFF FEBRUARY 1 THAT HE IS NO LONGER BEING FOLLOWED BY THE KGB. HIS MOST RECENT CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORITIES WAS IN THE FORM OF A NOTICE,DELIVERED TO HIM LAST WEEK, THAT HE MUST PAY A TEN RUBLE FINE FOR ALLEGALLY LIVING IN MOSCOW (ALLEGEDLY FOR FOUR MONTHS) WITHOUT PERMISSION. HE HAS BEEN STAYING IN A FRIEND'S APARTMENT, HE SAID, AND A NEIGHBOR TURNED HIM IN. PODRABINEK'S PASSPORT ALLOWS HIM TO LIVE IN ELECTROSTAL, A SMALL TOWN OUTSIDE MOSCOW, BUT HE SAID HE COULD NOT FIND HOUSING THERE.

2. PODRABINEK HAS BEEN WITHOUT WORK SINCE THE KGB BEGAN TO FOLLOW HIM FOUR MONTHS AGO. NOW THAT HE IS NO LONGER SURVEILLED, HE EXPECTS TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN MOSCOW
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AS A MEDICAL ASSISTANT.

3. THERE IS NO NEWS OF PROGRESS IN THE CASE BEING MADE AGAINST PODRABINEK'S BROTHER KIRILL, IN PRISON AND UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR HAVING VIOLATED ARTICLE 128 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE (ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES). THE DEADLINE OF JANUARY 20, SET

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BY THE KGB FOR ALEKSANDR TO CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT EMIGRATING IN EXCHANGE FOR KIRILLI'S RELEASE, HAS PASSED WITHOUT NOTICE THAT ANY TRIAL HAS BEEN SET OR THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AS THREATENED BY THE AUTHORITIES. ALEKSANDR SAYS HE THINKS HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY CALLED THE KGB'S BLUFF AND HOPES HIS BROTHER WILL BE FREED OF THE TRUMPED-UP CHARGES AND RELEASED. BUT IF KIRILL IS TRIED AND SENTENCED, OR AT ANY TIME DECIDES HE CAN'T TAKE THE PRESSURE, ALEKSANDR SAID HE WILL EMIGRATE. SO FAR KIRILL HAS STOOD FIRM AND TOLD HIS BROTHER NOT TO LEAVE.
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Disposition Reason:
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